

Corrections in Paronychia (Caryophyllaceae)

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The author recently completed and published a floristic study of the genus *Paronychia* as it occurs in Florida (Keys to the Flora of Florida -- 2, *Paronychia* (Caryophyllaceae). PHYTOLOGIA 35:414-'18. 1977). That study recognized 7 species within the state, one consisting of two subspecies and a second formed of two varieties. New combinations were made in *P. baldwinii* and in *P. erecta*. In large part, the selection of *Paronychia* for publication, rather than another of a number of manuscript treatments of Florida genera and families, was predicated upon the need for these new combinations.

The author, however, was unaware of the existence of a recent monograph of the genus *Paronychia*, by M. N. Chaudhri (A revision of the Paronychiinae. Drukkerij H. Gianotten N. V., Tilburg. 1968). Chaudhri's study, encompassing 109 species worldwide, was conducted in Europe and was dependent for its American collections upon seven U.S. institutions, all located outside the Southeast, while the present study relied heavily on the extensive Florida holdings of FLAS and FSU, as well as on direct field observation.

Even though the two studies were based upon wholly independent sources of information, the conclusions drawn are exceedingly similar. Both studies recognize the same seven Florida species, and under the same names. Both studies exclude from Florida one species (*P. fastigiata*) often reported for the state. And both studies treat two species as containing infraspecific taxa, with the same selection of epithet and rank. The only disparate note is the retention of Chaudhri of two infraspecific taxa (*P. americana* ssp. *pauciflora* and *P. rugelii* var. *interior*) that the present author does not believe worthy of recognition.

It is not often in taxonomic studies that parallel investigations are conducted within the same group but without knowledge of the other's interest; thus it is not often that one can approach an unbiased test of taxonomic judgment. To the extent that the present author's work may be used as a measuring unit, the study of M. N. Chaudhri as it pertains to Florida *Paronychia* is strongly endorsed and supported.

A concomitant consequence of these independent but identical conclusions as to the correct epithet and rank to be assigned to the Florida infraspecific taxa, however, is that the authorship

attributed to the new combinations must be that of the first to publish. Accordingly, the two new combinations made by the present author should be replaced as follows:

Paronychia baldwinii (T. & G.) Fenzl in Walp.

ssp. *riparia* (Chapm.) Chaudhri

Paronychia erecta (Chapm.) Shinnars

var. *corymbosa* (Small) Chaudhri